



PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION IN SINDH

In support of the Accelerated Action Plan, Government of Sindh

THE PINS PULSE

January 2020

The European Union-funded Programme for Improved Nutrition (PINS) aims to sustainably improve the nutritional status of children under five (U5) and of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Sindh through nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions while capacitating the Government of Sindh so that it may efficiently implement its multi-sectoral nutrition policy.

PINS featured in Karigar Mela organized by TRDP

PINS featured at the Karigar Mela, organized by the Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP) in Karachi. The PINS team showcased their Nutrition-Sensitive interventions through creative dioramas. Also presented were means to improve food security such as working with local communities to run small ventures, like poultry and agriculture entrepreneurs.



Her Excellency the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Ms. Androulla Kaminara, was the event's Guest of Honour. Keen to learn about the role of Community Resource Person (CRP) in PINS Nutrition-Sensitive interventions, the ambassador spoke with Ms. Shaheen, a CRP and lauded their work in motivating communities to build latrines and work towards achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. In PINS districts, 123 Village Organizations had been certified ODF by December 2019.



Treat Malnutrition Far and Wide

From programme inception to December 2019, the PINS Nutrition Specific team screened 548,894 and identified 22,153 children (6-59 months old) with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) who had been referred to Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) sites. 47,696 were admitted to OTPs, 30,013 cured and 162 children under were treated at Nutrition Stabilization Centers (NSC) with SAM and complications.



Strengthening DCCNs and Provincial- District Coordination including Interdepartmental

Commissioner Hyderabad Division, Mr. Abbas Baloch and PINS Policy Team Leader, Mr. Muhammad Zeeshan Tariq held detailed discussions (17th Jan) on the need to bring in divisional level oversight of DCCNs. The Commissioner expressed a keen interest and resolved to play his important role to improve the challenges of nutrition across his division. He suggested to deploy a Regional Coordinator (TA) to assist him in doing so, particularly for tracking progress and critical decision making.



Another series of workshops designed by the PINS Policy Team, for strengthening the DCCNs and to improve provincial-district coordination for effective implementation of Accelerated Action Plan, were held in the districts of Matiari, Dadu and Thatta on 23, 28 and 30 January.

These were closely coordinated with the office of the Commissioner Hyderabad (designated Additional Commissioner-I for this purpose) and the offices of the DCs. In all, 111 benefitted (mainly GoS staff).

Open Data Kit for assessing Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions

PINS has developed assessments using *Open Data Kit* to track selected outcome and output indicators and structurally document the lessons learnt. The collected data is fed into a central server that is linked to the dashboard tracking nutrition-sensitive indicators.



The assessment was pilot tested in Thatta in December 2019 and the feedback was expanded on in consultation meetings with programme field teams. Through January, the Monitoring and Evaluation team conducted orientations with each of the districts' teams, with the following day spent in the field to carry out the assessments.

Nutrition Management as Mandatory Course for Civil Servants

The PINS Policy Team advocated for the inclusion of Malnutrition and Nutrition Management as a public policy issue with the Secretary Training, GoS at the induction level, and for the mandatory courses for mid career and senior management level with the National Institute of Management, Govt. of Pakistan. As a result, Nutrition Management was included for the first time in the induction training of the 45 **Assistant Commissioners** who are to lead the implementation of AAP and other related Nutrition-Specific and Nutrition-Sensitive interventions at the sub-divisional level (Chair of sub-divisional Committees). Training sessions were conducted by the PINS team, at the request of the Civil Services Academy as part of the induction course.

Treatment of Mehboob – A SAM child from Sujawal

Mahboob, (3, from Tehsil Mirpour Bathoro), was identified as a Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) child, requiring immediate treatment. Community Health Worker (CHW), Ameer Zaida instantly referred him to an Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) site in Union Council Jhok Sharif on 18 October 2019. However, the family was reluctant to admit him. Following recurrent visits in which he still presented as SAM the parents received several counselling sessions, after which he was finally admitted for treatment. After two months of treatment, and a follow up later, Mahboob was found to be growing well.

2,151 CHWs are actively working to identify and treat SAM cases and 45,427 counselling sessions were delivered by the Nutrition Specific Team since inception till December 2019.

Implementation Updates – January 2020



216,076 pregnant and lactating women screened



194,096 Women attended IYCF sessions



262 OTP, **8** NSC established



730 Households trained in kitchen gardening



163 Pregnant and lactating women (in the 0 – 12 PSC range) given grants to purchase goats



1,082 Community members educated about food processing and preservation



61 Village Action Plans Developed



1,953 water sources tested for chemical and biological contamination

Exposure Visit to PARC's Arid Zone Research Institute in Umerkot

PINS Nutrition-Sensitive experts participated in an exposure visit, led by Action Against Hunger's Country Director, Ms. Jennifer Ankrom-Khan, to the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council's (PARC) Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) in Umerkot on 9th January, 2020. The focus of the visit



was to inform participants of bio-saline research and its integration in a model farm in Umerkot. Learnings from this visit include improved vegetable cultivation and fish farming which would be beneficial in addressing drought-related issues in achieving food security.



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